

REMARKS

Claim Status

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 12 and 14 have been amended, claim 8 has been canceled and 18-28 have been withdrawn without prejudice; claims 1-7, 9-17 remaining pending.

Election

Applicants affirm the election of claims 1-17 and the withdrawal of claims 18-28 from consideration, as noted in the Office Action.

Drawings

FIGs. 1 and 4 have been amended to include descriptive legends. It is now believed that FIGs. 1 and 4 are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(o). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection with respect to FIGs. 1 and 4 be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 11 are objected to due to certain unspecified grammatical/typographical errors. Since such errors have not been identified, Applicants have made certain corrections as noted above. To the best of Applicants' knowledge, claims 5 and 11 are now in compliance and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections with respect to these claims.

35 USC 112 Rejection

Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 112 as having insufficient antecedent basis for respective limitations in these claims. Claim 5 has been amended and is now believed to be in compliance with 35 USC 112; and claim 8 has been canceled thereby rendering its rejection moot.

35 USC 103 Rejection

Claims 1-7 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Annapareddy (U.S. Pat. No. 5,717,862) in view of Buckley (U.S. Pat. No. 6,163,809). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejection and submit that these claims are now allowable over the cited art. With respect to claim 1, this claim has now been amended to include the limitations that the source connector is directed to discontinue monitoring delivery status of the message once the message is archived at the route point processors and that the route point processors are directed to monitor the delivery status instead. It is believed that the

amendments as described above in claim 1 are fully supported by the specification and do not introduce any new matter. None of the cited art including Annareddy and Buckley discloses or suggests the foregoing limitations. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is now patentable over the cited art.

With respect to claim 11, the same arguments and rationale as set forth in connection with claim 1 apply with equal force. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is also patentable over the cited art.

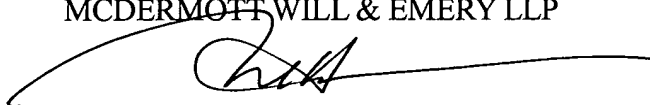
With respect to claims 2-7 and 12-15, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 11 and hence at least derive their respective patentability therefrom. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also patentable over the cited art.

Claims 9-10 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Annareddy in view of Buckley and further in view of da Silva (U.S. Pat. No. 6,445,937). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejection and submit that these claims are now allowable over the cited art. Claims 9-10 and 16-17 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 11 and hence at least derive their respective patentability therefrom. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Horace H. Ng
Registration No. 39,315

18191 Von Karman Ave., Suite 400
Irvine, CA 92612-7107
Telephone: 949.851.0633
Facsimile: 949.851.9348
HN:al

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